

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): An automated warehouse system operated by moving a transfer apparatus along a first rack in a warehouse such that a container is stored in, or retrieved from the first rack, wherein

ID tags are attached to the container and individual articles in the container,

first reading means is provided in the transfer apparatus on a side facing the first rack for reading an ID of the container without pulling the container out of the first rack, and

second reading means is provided in the transfer apparatus on a side facing the first rack, and the articles in the container are scanned by the second reading means while pulling the container out of the first rack onto the transfer apparatus for reading the IDs of the individual articles in the container.

2. (Previously presented): The automated warehouse system of claim 1, further comprising pulling control means for setting a speed of pulling the container at low speed at the time of reading the IDs of the individual articles in the container in comparison with a speed in the case where the IDs of the articles are not read.

3. (Currently Amended) The automated warehouse system of claim 1, wherein the transfer apparatus comprises a stacker crane including:

a truck movable in a movement direction in parallel with the first rack;
a mast provided at the truck;
a hoisting frame vertically movable along the mast; and
transfer means provided at the hoisting frame and movable in the left-right direction perpendicular to the movement direction in the horizontal plane for transferring the container between the first rack and the hoisting frame,

the first reading means is provided in at least one of a left end portion and a right end portion ~~positions near the left and right ends~~ of the hoisting frame on a side facing the first rack for reading the ID of the container, and

the second reading means is provided in at least one of a left upper end portion and a right upper end portion ~~upper positions near the left and right ends~~ of the hoisting frame such that the container passes under the second reading means by the transfer means.

4. (Currently Amended): The automated warehouse system of claim 3, wherein
the first rack is provided on ~~at least one of respective~~ a left and right sides ~~side~~ in the movement direction of the hoisting frame,

a second rack is provided on a right side in the movement direction of the hoisting frame,

the first reading means is provided on ~~at least one of respective~~ both left and right ends of the hoisting frame, and

the second reading means is provided ~~in at least one of upper positions near~~ on

the ~~respective~~ left upper end and right ~~ends~~ upper end of the hoisting frame.

5. (Currently Amended): The automated warehouse system of claim 4, wherein the ID tags of the container are provided at both ends of the container in the left-right direction based on the state where the container is stocked in the first and the second rack.

6. (Currently Amended): The automated warehouse system of claim 3, wherein space for arranging at least two of the containers is provided in the hoisting frame, and the at least two containers can be transferred between the hoisting frame and the first rack by the transfer means, and

internal transfer means is provided in the hoisting frame for transferring the articles between the at least two containers while reading the IDs of the articles.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)